

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07

DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 039080

R 051020Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5788

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, AR, IS

SUBJ: NEW PAPAL NUNCIO

REF: ROME 6625

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT WITH MONSIGNOR PIO LAGHI, APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN JERUSALEM WHO IS GOING TO BUENOS AIRES AS PAPAL NUNCIO. HE EXPECTS TO ARRIVE THERE IN MID-JUNE. TIMING IS TO BE DETERMINED BY VATICAN'S DESIRE THAT HE PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT AND NOT TO "A WOMAN" (LAGHI BELIEVED PERON WAS TO BE AWAY AT SOME POINT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT,

LEAVING HIS WIFE IN CHARGE).

2. LAGHI'S OWN VIEWS ON PERON ARE DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE. HE ACKNOWLEDGES, HOWEVER, THAT CHURCH IN ARGENTINA IS SPLIT, WITH SOME ELEMENTS FAVORING PERON, SOME OPPOSED, AND SOME ESSENTIALLY INDIFFERENT. HE CLEARLY LOOKS TOWARD ARGENTINE POLITICAL FUTURE WITH SOME PESSIMISM, AND FEELS HE HAS CHALLENGE IN HELPING GUIDE CHURCH THROUGH NEXT YEARS.

3. COMMENT: LAGHI HAS BUILT REPUTATION IN JERUSALEM AS ASTUTE, MODERN, FLEXIBLE DIPLOMAT. HE HAS BEEN INNOVATIVE AND
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ENERGETIC IN PURSUING CHURCH POLICY IN VERY TRICKY CIRCUMSTANCES

HERE. WITH US HE HAS BEEN FRANK AND FORTHCOMING -- A GOOD
CONTACT.
DAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JERUSA01227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740143-0390
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740674/aaaacInk.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 6625
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW PAPAL NUNCIO
TAGS: PFOR, VT, AR, IS, (LAGHI, PIO)
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005